

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 5 and 9 have been amended. It is submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated October 17, 2007.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Takenaka et al. (USP 5,357,433).

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Independent claim 1, as amended, now recites *“the foot portion includes an upper sole and a lower sole, and the force sensor is provided between the upper sole and the lower sole”* and *“the lower sole is provided with a side wall rising upward at a part next to the outer edge of the foot portion.”* Also, independent claims 5 and 9 have been amended to include similar features.

(A) As to the present claimed invention

The present claimed invention relates to a walking mobile system, and more specifically to its walk control which can detect contact of foot sides. Specifically, it is characterized in that foot portions are constituted so as to detect easily contact of foot sides.

That is, as described in the specification, for example, page 9, line 33 to page 10, line 14 and Fig. 4, the force sensor 36a is provided between the upper sole 37 and the lower sole 38 under the sole plate 35 which is the bottom face of a foot portion 14L, and further the lower sole 38 is provided with a side wall 38a rising upward at a part next to the outer edge of a foot portion 14L.

Therefore, when a foot portion 14L hits a side of a matter on the floor surface, the side wall 38a of the lower sole 38 collides on said matter, transmits its impact strength to the force sensor 36a, which can hence detect said contact (for example, page 10, lines 5-8 of the specification).

(B) As to Takenaka et al. (USP 5,357,433)

On page 3, lines 4-5 of the Action, it was pointed out that “the walk controller comprises force sensors for detecting forces applied to sole of respective foot portions (col. 3, lines 35-58)” in Takenaka et al.

In Takenaka et al., col. 3, lines 35-44, it is surely disclosed that the ankles of the robot are provided with “six dimensional force and torque sensor 36,” and said sensor 36 detects “whether or not the associated foot has landed and the magnitude and direction of the force acting on the supporting leg.”

(C) Comparison of the present claimed invention and Takenaka et al.

The present claimed invention and Takenaka et al. are similar in that both have a sensor in the foot portion, but the present claimed invention differs from Takenaka et al. in that the present claimed invention can easily detect contact of foot sides. That is, as mentioned above, the present claimed invention is characterized in that:

(1) the force sensor 36a is provided between the upper sole 37 and the lower sole 38;

(2) the lower sole 38 is provided with a side wall 38a rising upward at a part next to the outer edge of a foot portion.

Nothing is explicitly disclosed in Takenaka et al. about the constitution to easily detect contact of foot sides, and more specifically about the constitutions of the above-mentioned features (1) and (2).

In view of the above, it is submitted that Takenaka et al. fails to disclose or fairly suggest the claimed feature “*the foot portion includes an upper sole and a lower sole, and the force sensor is provided between the upper sole and the lower sole*” and “*the lower sole is provided with a side wall rising upward at a part next to the outer edge of the foot portion,*” as called for in amended claim 1 and similarly in amended claims 5 and 9.

Accordingly claims 1, 5 and 9 distinguish over Takenaka et al.

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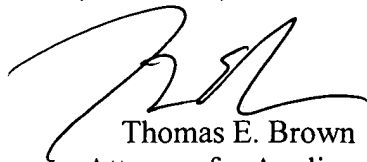
Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 are dependent from claim 1, 5 or 9 and recite the additional features set forth therein. Accordingly claims 2-4, 6-8 and 10-12 also distinguish over Takenaka et al. for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP



Thomas E. Brown
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44,450
Telephone: (202) 822-1100
Facsimile: (202) 822-1111

TEB/TN/ya